claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for assessing a degree of alignment of an antenna with a satellite comprising:

a portable housing;

a CPU located within the housing; and

a signal generator in communication with said CPU for generating a signal that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the antenna and the satellite.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein said signal generator comprises:

a satellite communications frequency tuner communicating with said CPU;

a demodulator communicating with said tuner, said demodulator receiving a data stream from said tuner and extracting a bitstream therefrom and communicating said bitstream to said CPU;

a converter for converting a digital audio signal generated by said CPU as a result of said bitstream into an analog signal; and

a speaker for receiving said analog signal from said converter means and generating a corresponding audio signal.

3. The device of claim 2 further comprising:

an audio jack coupled to said converter; and

headphones removably attachable to said audio jack.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein said signal generator comprises a display coupled to said CPU for displaying information relating to said alignment between the antenna and the satellite.

5. The device of claim 4 wherein said information relating to said alignment between the antenna and the satellite is selected from the group of information consisting of: satellite identity, current measured BER value of said signal, current C/N value of said signal, and a quality of said signal.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein said CPU is powered by a power supply selected from the group consisting of: a battery and a source of A/C power.

7. The device of claim 6 wherein said battery is removably supported in said housing.

8. The device of claim 6 wherein said battery is non-removably supported in said housing.

9. The device of claim 6 wherein said battery is rechargeable.

10. The device of claim 6 further comprising a power level monitor supported in

said housing for providing a visual indication of power generated by said power supply that is available for consumption by said CPU.

11. The device of claim 1 wherein when said CPU is coupled to the junction box of an antenna, said power supply supplies power to a frequency converter of the antenna.

12. The device of claim 1 further comprising a support strap attached to said housing.

13. The device of claim 1 further comprising a support hook attached to said housing.

14. A device for assessing a degree of alignment of an antenna with a signal transmitting device, comprising:

a handheld housing;

signal assessment means supported in said handheld housing and attachable to the antenna for receiving a signal therefrom that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the antenna and the signal transmitting device; and

indicator means coupled to said signal assessment means for providing at least one indicator indicating the degree of alignment between the antenna and the signal transmitting device.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein said indicator comprises a visual indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the satellite and the signal transmitting device.

16. The device of claim 14 wherein said indicator comprises an audio indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the satellite and the signal transmitting device.

17. The device of claim 14 wherein said indicator comprises:

a visual indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the signal transmitting device and the antenna; and

an audio indicator that is indicative of the degree of alignment between the signal transmitting device and the antenna.

18. The device of claim 14 wherein the signal transmitting device comprises a satellite.

19. A device for assessing a degree of alignment of an antenna with a satellite, comprising:

a handheld housing;

a CPU supported within said handheld housing, said CPU coupled to a power supply;

a satellite communications frequency tuner supported within said handheld housing and communicating with said CPU;

a demodulator supported within said handheld housing and communicating with said

tuner, said demodulator receiving a data stream from said tuner and extracting a bitstream therefrom and communicating said bitstream to said CPU;

a display supported on said handheld housing and communicating with said CPU for receiving a display signal therefrom, said display providing visual indication of the degree of alignment between the antenna and the satellite;

converter means for converting a digital audio signal generated by said CPU as a result of said bitstream into an analog signal; and

speaker means for receiving said analog signal from said converter means and generating a corresponding audio signal.

20. A method for aligning an antenna with a satellite, comprising:

receiving a signal from the satellite;

calculating a BER value of the signal in a portable device;

displaying the calculated BER value of the signal on the portable device;

calculating a C/N value of the signal in the portable device;

displaying the calculated C/N value of the signal on the portable device; and

reorienting the antenna until the calculated BER value matches a predetermined BER value.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising reorienting the antenna until the calculated C/N value matches a predetermined C/N value.

22. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon data and instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

receive a signal from a satellite;

calculate a BER value of the signal;

display the calculated BER value of the signal on a portable device;

calculate a C/N value of the signal; and

display the calculated C/N value of the signal on the portable device.